

## RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES FOR USE OF NATIONWIDE PERMITS 3 & 18 FOR ROAD PROJECTS

There are General Conditions that apply to the use of all of the Nationwide Permits, as well as specific conditions and thresholds for each of the Nationwide Permits and Regional Conditions for the Norfolk District of the Corps of Engineers. All of these conditions are in effect. The following information provides additional guidance in the use of two of the Nationwide Permits, Numbers 3 and 18, in the Norfolk District.

### **NWP 3, part i, non-reporting,**

1. No stream relocations allowed, even with natural stream design.
2. May discharge fills/riprap in scour holes abutting existing structures like bridge piers and culverts.
3. No shifts in alignment of culverts to change road curvature (road alignment shifts are more than just maintenance) are allowed.
4. Replacement of single pipes with two or more pipes is allowed, provided total pipe width approximates total stream width, and complies with General NWP Condition #21, concerning management of water flows (i.e., “..the activity must, to maximum extent practicable, reduce adverse effects such as flooding or erosion downstream and upstream of project”).
5. No more than 20 feet total of additional pipe or culvert length is allowed.
6. Cannot be used to add additional roadway lanes or parking areas.
7. When used for the replacement of a pipe or culvert, the following special conditions apply:
  - a. The culvert must be adequately sized and properly installed so that it passes the ordinary high waters at this location in the watershed.
  - b. The width of the fill is limited to the minimum necessary to accomplish the crossing.
  - c. The culvert must be installed to maintain low flow conditions (countersunk a minimum of 6 inches below the natural stream bottom, unless the stream bottom is bedrock).

## **NWP 18:**

1. May use cofferdams for temporary stream diversion during construction, as long as the total (permanent and temporary) fill does not exceed 25 cubic yards below ordinary high water, the purpose of the project is not to divert a stream, and the temporary fill is completely removed (If less than 10 cy total BOHW, then the work is non-reporting).
2. Temporary pumping of water around the work site during construction is allowed.
3. No stream relocations allowed, even with natural stream design.
4. When used for the replacement of a pipe or culvert, the following special conditions apply:
  - a. The culvert must be adequately sized and properly installed so that it passes the ordinary high waters at this location in the watershed.
  - b. The width of the fill is limited to the minimum necessary to accomplish the crossing.
  - c. The culvert must be installed to maintain low flow conditions (countersunk a minimum of 6 inches below the natural stream bottom, unless the stream bottom is bedrock).

Reminder for NWP #18: A PCN is required for any wetland impacts or any impacts BOHW that are greater than 10 cubic yards, for both permanent and temporary fills. (Temporary fills can also be covered under NWP 33, and a PCN is required for that as well).